



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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**Date:** 12/28/2004

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## Kuwait

### Trade Policy Monitoring

## Ban on Imports of U.S. Beef Lifted 2004

**Approved by:**

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U.S. Consulate General, Dubai, U.A.E.

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**Report Highlights:**

On December 26, 2004, Kuwait became the first country, among the four Arab Gulf Cooperation (GCC) Countries that banned U.S. beef imports in late 2003, to lift the said ban on all beef imports originating from the United States, with the exception of the State of Washington. The above decision resulted from ATO Dubai's on-going efforts over the past 12 month to convince host governments' health authorities to lift their bans on U.S. beef imports. The decision by Kuwait is expected to help hasten similar action by health authorities in the remaining three GCC countries.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Dubai [TC1]  
[KU]

## 1. INTRODUCTION

On December 26, 2004, Kuwait became the first country among the four Arab Gulf Cooperation (GCC) Countries that banned U.S. beef imports in late 2003, to lift the said ban on all beef imports originating from the United States, with the exception of the State of Washington. The Kuwaiti decision on maintaining the import ban on the State of Washington results from the Food Safety Committee's doubts on elimination of the BSE risk in the State of Washington.

During 2003, Kuwait imported \$32.2 millions worth of U.S. beef products, FOB basis. In 2004, from January to October, U.S. exports fell to \$ 5.9 million. This trade was to the U.S. military. We expect U.S. beef exports to Kuwait to resume strongly in 2005.

The above decision resulted from ATO Dubai's on-going efforts during the past 12 month to convince host governments' health authorities to lift their bans on U.S. beef imports.

The decision by Kuwait should help hasten action by other GCC countries to address the bans remaining in place.

## 2. TEXT OF THE DECREE

Quote

**Ministry of Commerce & Industry**  
**The Minister**

Date: December 26, 2004  
Ref: M/1088/26/2004

### **Ministerial Decree No 376 of 2004**

**The Minister of Commerce & Industry**

- After perusing the Import Law No. 43 of 1964.
- And Law No. 20 of 1976 regarding Commercial Fraud and its amendments.
- And on Law No. 10 of 1979 regarding Trading in Commodities and Setting the Prices of some of them.
- And on Ministerial Decree No. 363 of 2003 regarding the banning of imports of fresh, chilled and frozen beef of all kinds and their derivatives originating from the United States of America.
- And on the recommendation of the Food Safety Committee in its meeting No. 8/2004 on 2/11/2004.
- And based on the requirements of the public interest.
- And based on the presentation of the Ministry's Undersecretary.

### **Decrees**

#### **Article One**

The ban on imports of fresh, chilled and frozen beef of all kinds and their derivatives originating from the United States of America is lifted, with the exception of the State of Washington.

#### **Article Two**

Ministerial Decree No. 363 of 2003 regarding the banning of imports of fresh, chilled and frozen beef of all kinds and their derivatives originating from the United States of America is cancelled.

### **Article Three**

All concerned authorities are required to execute this Decree as of the date of its issuance and it is to be published in the Official Gazette.

(Signed)

Minister of Commerce & Industry

Abdallah Abdulrahman Al-Tawil

End Quote